

Claims 1-86 (Canceled)

87. (Currently Amended) An electronic program information preparing and transmitting apparatus adapted to prepare for preparing electronic program information related to a plurality of channel services and for transmitting the prepared electronic program information to at least one users' terminals via a plurality of transport streams, comprising:

electronic program information preparing means for preparing:

(i): distributing information means indicating which channel service should be distributed to which transport stream and indicating correspondences, respectively, between the transport streams and the channel services broadcast by each of a plurality of broadcast service stations, wherein the correspondences include a correspondence between plural transport streams from among said transport streams and plural channel services which are at least part of the channel services that are adapted to be broadcast by the plurality of broadcast service stations and which are adapted to be broadcast by the same broadcast service station, and

(ii): a plurality of channel services, comprising:

a first type of electronic program information related to each of said channel services; and

a second type of electric program information related to each of the channel services;

wherein the first type of electronic program information is described with a first degree of detail of program information and the second type of electronic program information is described with a second degree of detail of program information, and

wherein said first degree of detail of program information is greater, in a period covering the channel services, than said and second degrees of detail of program information are different from each other;

electronic program information distributing means for distributing, on the basis of the distributing information, to each transport stream:

(i): the first type of electronic program information concerning each channel service to a first transport stream assigned to the channel service,

wherein, the first type of electronic program information concerning each of the plural channel services broadcast by the same broadcast service station is adapted to be distributed to each of the plural transport streams assigned to the same broadcast service station, and

(ii): the second type of electronic program information concerning each channel service is adapted to be distributed to the remaining at least one transport streams other than the first transport stream; and

transmitting means, for transmitting at least the transport streams to which the electronic program information has been distributed ~~to the users' terminals~~, in which the transmission of the transport streams to the users' terminals is adapted to allow ~~allows~~ each of the users' terminals to receive display said first and second degrees of detail ~~of for the electronic program information for a currently tuned channel service versus non-tuned channel services, respectively~~ so as to display the electronic program information occupying, in its description, both of a period of time for a currently tuned channel service and a second period of time for non-tuned channel services, the first period of time being longer than the second period of time in the period covering the channel services.

Claims 88-97 (Cancelled)

98. (Currently amended) The electronic program information preparing and transmitting apparatus according to claim ~~87~~ 97, wherein the electronic program information preparing means is configured to be adapted to produce the distributing information indicating correspondences between, respectively, the transport streams and the channel services broadcast by each of a plurality of broadcast service stations;

wherein the distribution information includes a correspondence between plural transport streams among the transport streams and plural channel services broadcast by the same broadcast service station, respectively,

wherein the electronic program information distributing means is configured to be adapted to distribute, to each of the plural transport streams assigned to the same broadcast service station, the first type of electronic program information concerning each of the plural channel services broadcast by the same broadcast service station

~~wherein the first degree of detail is higher, in its description of program information, than the second degree of detail.~~

Claims 99 and 100. Cancelled

101. (Currently amended) The electronic program information preparing and transmitting apparatus according to claim 98, wherein the electronic program information preparing means is configured to be adapted to change the first and second degrees of detail of program information on the basis of a degree of detail setting electronic information that assigns a different degree of detail to the first and second types of electric program information.

102. (Cancelled)

103. (Currently amended) A method of preparing electronic program information related to a plurality of channel services, respectively, and transmitting the prepared electronic program information to at least one users' terminals via a plurality of transport streams, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing:

(i): distributing information indicating which channel service should be distributed to which transport stream and indicating respective correspondences between the transport streams and the channel services broadcast by each of a plurality of broadcast service stations, wherein the correspondences include correspondence between plural transport streams among the transport streams and plural channel services that are at least part of the channel services broadcast by the plurality of broadcast service stations and that are broadcast by the same broadcast service station; and

(ii): for each of a plurality of said channel services, both a first type of electronic program information related to the channel service and a second type of electric program information related to the channel service;

wherein the first type of electronic program information is described with a first degree of detail of program information; and

wherein the second type of electronic program information is described with a second degree of detail of program information ~~that is different, and the first degree of program information is greater in a period covering the channel services description of program information,~~ from the ~~first~~ second degree of detail of program information;

distributing, on the basis of the distributing information:

(i) : the first type of electronic program information, with respect to concerning each channel service, to a transport stream assigned to a first channel service, wherein the first type of electronic program information, concerning each of the plural channel services broadcast by the same broadcast service station, is distributed to each of the plural transport streams assigned to the same broadcast service station, and

(ii): the second type of electronic program information, concerning each channel service, to the remaining at least one transport streams, other than said first transport stream; and

transmitting at least the transport streams, to which the electronic program information has been distributed ~~to the users' terminals~~, in which the transmission of the transport streams to the users' terminals is adapted to allow allows each of the users' terminals to receive display said first and second degrees of detail of for the electronic program information so as to display the electronic program information occupying, in its description, both of the first period of time for a currently tuned channel service and a second period of time for non-tuned channel services, the first period of time being longer than the second period of time in the period covering the channel services for a currently tuned channel service versus non-tuned channel services, respectively.

Claims 104-111 (Cancelled)

112. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any of~~ claim 103, wherein the electronic program information preparing step is adapted to produce the distributing information indicating correspondences between the transport streams and the channel services broadcast by each of a plurality of broadcast service stations,

wherein the distribution information is adapted to include a correspondence between plural transport streams, among the transport streams, and plural channel services broadcast by the same broadcast service station,

wherein the electronic program information distributing step is adapted to distribute, to each of the plural transport streams assigned to the same broadcast service station, the first type of electronic program information concerning each of the plural channel services broadcast by the same broadcast service station,

~~wherein the first degree of detail has greater description of program information than the~~

~~second degree of detail.~~

Claims 113 and 114 Cancelled

Kindly add the following claims:

115. (New) An electronic program information preparing and transmitting apparatus adapted to prepare electronic program information related to a plurality of channel services and for transmitting the prepared electronic program information to at least one users' terminal(s) via a plurality of transport streams, comprising:

(i): means for distributing information indicating which channel service should be distributed to which transport stream and indicating correspondences, respectively, between the transport streams and the channel services broadcast by a plurality of broadcast service stations,

wherein the correspondences include a correspondence between plural transport streams from among said transport streams and plural channel services which are at least part of the channel services that are adapted to be broadcast by the plurality of broadcast service stations and which are adapted to be broadcast by the same broadcast service station, and

(ii): a plurality of channel services, comprising:

a first type of electronic program information related to each of the channel services;
and

a second type of electronic program information related to each of the channel services;

wherein the first type of electronic program information is described with a first degree of detail of program information and the second type of electronic program information is described with a second degree of detail of program information, and

wherein said first degree of detail of program information is greater, in the amount of program information with respect to each channel service, than said second degree of detail of program information;

electronic program information distributing means for distributing, on the basis of the distributing information, to each transport stream:

(i): the first type of electronic program information concerning each channel service to a first transport stream assigned to the channel service,

wherein, the first type of electronic program information concerning each of the plural channel services broadcast by the same broadcast service station is adapted to be distributed to each of the plural transport streams assigned to the same broadcast service station, and

(ii): the second type of electronic program information concerning each channel service is adapted to be distributed to the remaining at least one transport streams other than the first transport stream; and

transmitting means for transmitting at least the transport streams, to which the electronic program information has been distributed, in which the transmission of the transport streams to the users' terminals is adapted to allow each of the users' terminals to receive said first and second degrees of detail of program information so as to display the electronic program information having both of a first amount of program information for a currently tuned channel service and a second amount of program information for non-tuned channel services, the first amount of program information being greater than the second amount of program information in the amount of program information with respect to each channel service.

116. (New) A method of preparing electronic program information related to a plurality of channel services, respectively, and transmitting the prepared electronic program information to at least one users' terminals via a plurality of transport streams, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing

(i): distributing information indicating which channel service should be distributed to which transport stream and indicating respective correspondences between the transport streams and the channel services broadcast by each of a plurality of broadcast service stations, wherein the correspondences include correspondence between plural transport streams among the transport streams and plural channel services that are at least part of the channel services broadcast by the plurality of broadcast service stations and that are broadcast by the same broadcast service station; and

(ii): for each of a plurality of said channel services, both a first type of electronic program information related to the channel service and a second type of electric program information related to the channel service;

wherein the first type of electronic program information is described with a first degree of detail of program information; and

wherein the second type of electronic program information is described with a second degree of detail of program information and the first degree of program information is greater, in an amount of program information with respect to each channel service, from the second degree of detail of program information;

distributing, on the basis of the distributing information:

(i): the first type of electronic program information, with respect to each channel service, to a transport stream assigned to a first channel service, wherein the first type of electronic program information, concerning each of the plural channel services broadcast by the same broadcast service station, is distributed to each of the plural transport streams assigned to the same broadcast service station, and

(ii): the second type of electronic program information, concerning each channel service, to the remaining at least one transport streams, other than said first transport stream; and

transmitting at least the transport streams, to which the electronic program information has been distributed, in which the transmission of the transport streams to the users' terminals is adapted to allow each of the users' terminals to receive said first and second degrees of detail of program information so as to display the electronic program information having both of a first amount of program information for a currently tuned channel service and a second amount of program information for non-tuned channel services, the first amount of program information being greater than the second amount of program information in the amount of program information with respect to each channel service.